

# Roaring River Fish Hatchery

## About This Area

Roaring River Hatchery, constructed in 1910, is one of the oldest trout hatcheries in the state. Operated by the Missouri Department of Conservation, the hatchery is located in Roaring River State Park, 7 miles south of Cassville, on Highway 112.

The hatchery is at the head of Roaring River, adjacent to scenic Roaring River Spring. The spring, Missouri's 20th largest, produces an average of 20.4 million gallons of water per day. The hatchery includes 40 raceways (trout rearing units), a building where eggs are incubated and a large display pool stocked with lunker trout. Signs at various locations on the area provide information to visitors, and the hatchery building features a photographic exhibit of trout culture.

Roaring River State Park offers numerous hiking trails, a nature center with exhibits, camping facilities, picnic areas, a restaurant, a swimming pool and a motel, all of which are maintained by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Interpretive programs are also provided.

Trout fishing is available on three miles of stream inside Roaring River State Park from March 1 through Oct. 31. Winter trout fishing (catch-and-release only) is available Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from the second Friday in November until the second Sunday in February. In addition, the Roaring River Trout Management Area, 4.5 miles of stream outside the park boundary, is open for fishing year-round.

The rugged and scenic terrain of Roaring River State Park and the surrounding White River basin provide a beautiful setting for the hatchery. The area is rich in history. It had long been the hunting ground of the Delaware, Shawnee, Peoria, Piankeshaw, Wea, Osage and Kickapoo Indians.

The area was first settled in the late 1820's and was the site of several mills, including grist, wool carding and saw mills. The proximity of the mills and the spring made the area a natural gathering place for families.

A wide variety of native Ozark trees, wild flowers and other native plants flourish here, including yellow wood, Ozark spiderwort, Ozark corn salad and shrubby spurge. The area has abundant deer, turkey, squirrel, raccoon, fox, mink, muskrat and

beaver, and numerous eagles spend the winter here.

## About The Hatchery

Roaring River State Fish Hatchery produces 165,000 to 210,000 pounds of rainbow trout each year. Over 90 percent of the fish produced are stocked in the daily tag area, which encompasses 1.6 miles of stream within the park boundaries. The remainder are stocked in Roaring River Trout Management Area, Lake Taneycomo and other waters.

R.E. Brunner, of Kansas City, first built a hatchery on this site in 1910, as part of a hunting and fishing resort. In 1928, Mr. Thomas Sayman, a soap manufacturer from St. Louis, bought the hatchery, plus 2,400 acres of land, and immediately resold it to the state for \$1. The area then became a state park, with the Missouri Game and Fish Commission operating the hatchery.

Between June 1933 and November 1939, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) rebuilt the hatchery. All the stonework – the dam around the spring pool, raceways, walkways, hatchery building, storage building, and public restrooms – was done by hand with stone quarried from the park. The craftsmanship for this work was excellent and has held up well over the years. In the 1960s, additional concrete raceways were added.

Since 1937, the Department of Conservation has been in charge of operating the hatchery and managing the trout fishery in the park.

## Hatchery Facts

- Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) are raised in the hatchery.
- Roaring River Spring is the sole source of water for the hatchery. During dry periods when the spring flow is low, water is pumped back from the river in order to supply the hatchery.
- Approximately 200,000 fish are raised annually.
- Broodstock supply eggs in February each year. In October, eggs from Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery are brought here to be hatched.
- Fertilized eggs are hatched using egg jars. Eggs are supplied with a continual flow of 57 degree spring water. In two weeks eyes will develop and in 21 days young trout (sac fry) will hatch.
- As the small trout grow, they are fed a commercial trout food. After 15 months of meticulous care, fish grow to 10 to 12 inches and are ready to stock in the park.

- Fish are stocked every night in the daily tag area at the rate of 2.25 fish per anticipated angler.
- Over 250,000 fish are stocked in the daily tag area of the park each year.
- The Roaring River Trout Management Area (beyond the tag area) is stocked with 6,100 fish each year.

## Things To Do

- Trout Fishing. Trout fishing is permitted on the stream inside the park from March 1 through Oct. 31. In addition, fishing is permitted in Roaring River outside the park year-round. (See fishing regulation pamphlet for maps of different zones and regulations).

Winter fishing (catch-and-release only) is permitted from the first hole adjacent to the hatchery to the old dam in the lower campground from the second Friday in November through the second Sunday in February.

- Kids Fishing Day is held annually, the Saturday after Mother's Day. Fishing is free for kids 15 and under. The first hole adjacent to the hatchery is set aside and stocked especially for boys and girls 12 years old and under. Department staff and volunteers help kids and provide fishing tips.

- Camping.
- Picnicking.
- Hiking.

- Self-guided tours. Informational signs throughout the hatchery allow self-guided tours at any time. (See map of locations). The hatchery is open to visitors from dawn until 10 p.m. year-round, including holidays.
- Nature study, birdwatching and photography.
- Guided tours of the hatchery facility begin at the sign on the walkway leading to the spring at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily, from Memorial Day through Labor Day. They are held at 2 p.m. daily during May and Sept., and are available upon request for groups during the rest of the year.
- Watch fish in the spring pool, which contains many lunker trout. See exhibits describing trout spawning, egg development, and rearing techniques. View Missouri's scenic 20th largest spring.

## Special Area Rules and Regulations

- Daily trout tags are required inside the park and may be purchased on site. Trout stamps are required for the Trout Management Area.
- No hunting allowed.
- Waste containers may be used only for disposal of trash generated on area. Please do not litter.
- No fireworks.
- Fishing is not allowed in the hatchery or the spring pool.
- Fishing is not permitted in the park before the morning whistle or after the evening whistle. (See pamphlet for whistle times)
- No free-running pets.
- Destroying, cutting or removing vegetation is prohibited. Please do not pick the flowers.
- Bicycles are allowed only on roads open to vehicles and service roads.
- No target shooting allowed.
- Swimming, scuba diving and skateboarding are not allowed.

(Regulations are from the Wildlife Code of Missouri and selected statutes of the State of Missouri. Special area regulations are from Provision 3CSR 10-4.115 of the Wildlife Code. Free copies of the Wildlife Code and Special Area Regulations are available from the Conservation Department.)

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## Welcome

Missouri is a state rich in history, folklore and natural resources. The Conservation Department encourages you to visit, use and enjoy this area and other Department areas.

Roaring River Fish Hatchery is located within Roaring River State Park. Both public and private land surrounds the state park. The boundaries adjoining private property are clearly marked. Please respect landowners' rights with these simple courtesies: obtain permission before going on private property, pick up all litter, be careful with fire, do not damage property.

### Nearby Department Areas:

Flag Springs Conservation Area

Lower Flat Creek Access

Roaring River Conservation Area

Stubblefield Access

### For local information, contact:

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**Your comments and suggestions regarding area facilities and management are welcome.**

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Missouri Department of Conservation

